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Modern 'Mata Hari' and Colleagues Arrested

Mrs. Theresa Behrens, 44-year-old Y.M.C.A. secretary (left), was one of five colleagues of attractive Miss Grace Buchanan-Dineen (right), charged with being the "Mata Hari" and guiding genius of a spy ring smashed in Detroit yesterday. All six were arrested by the FBI.

Beautiful Counter-Spy Aids FBI in Roundup of Ring

T-H 8-25-43
'Y' Worker Held

As Espionage Plotter

DETROIT, Aug. 24.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced today that, aided by a beautiful Canadian-born heiress with a French title who acted as counter-spy, they had broken up an alleged widespread espionage ring with the arrest of four persons charged with transmitting valuable military information to



DR. FRED W. THOMAS
One of Six Arrested

Germany and two "dangerous enemy alien women."

Toronto-born Grace Buchanan-Dineen, 34, reported to be a French countess, her alleged woman accomplice and a Detroit doctor pleaded innocent when arraigned today on charges of wartime espionage. They face a maximum penalty of death upon conviction. Bond was set at \$50,000 for each.

Seaman Seized

Meanwhile, a merchant seaman also was arrested on the same charge in New York, and two alien women, both Germans, were seized on presidential warrants, culminating an investigation into the alleged ring begun by the FBI in 1939.

The others arraigned with Miss Buchanan-Dineen were:

Mrs. Theresa Behrens, 44, her alleged accomplice, German-Hungarian secretary of the Detroit Y. M. C. A. International Center.

Dr. Fred William Thomas, 44, surgeon and physician.

The merchant seaman arrested in New York was Bertrand Stuart Hoffmann, 27, of Detroit, who recently joined the U. S. merchant

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marine allegedly for the purpose of deserting in Europe and making his way to Germany to enlist in the German air force.

Women Unidentified

The two women aliens not identified by name were said to be the wife of an early Nazi party member and a Berlin-born countess. Both were seized for internment as dangerous alien enemies.

The ring carried on intensive spying activities in defense plants and among Naval and Army bases in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, the FBI said. It gathered and dispatched information on production and movement of war materials, location of war production plants and movements of troops and high military personnel.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the ring's network of activity centered in Miss Buchanan-Dineen, described as the daughter of a wealthy Canadian family, who entered this country October 27, 1941, by Atlantic Clipper after receiving last-minute instructions from a German naval attache at Lisbon.

Woman Soon Spotted

Spotted by the FBI only two

months later, Miss Buchanan-Dineen was seized by the FBI and agreed to act as a counterespionage agent.

"Subsequently," the announcement said, "Miss Buchanan-Dineen co-operated fully with the FBI in receiving information desired by the German espionage service when it became apparent to her that she could not carry out the instructions of her Nazi employers."

"She has operated under the surveillance of the FBI, and all information reported to her and forwarded to her Nazi espionage superiors abroad has cleared through the FBI, and army and navy intelligence services."

Centered on Woman

Hoover said that the activities of the group "centered about" Miss Buchanan-Dineen, who was described as an "attractive, well-educated descendant of French nobility" and a native of Canada.

"Dr. Thomas has long been known to the FBI in Detroit as an associate of Theodore Donay, who was recently convicted for misprision of treason in Detroit, Fritz Kuhn, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze (bund leaders), and Max Stefan, whose death sentence for treason was recently commuted to life."

Hoover said that Miss Buchanan-Dineen had been trained in Budapest, Hungary, by Sari De Hajek, a former well-known lecturer in this country on Hungarian folklore, and a Vassar graduate, and her husband Guyula Rosinek, who was deported from this country in May, 1941.

It was Mrs. Behrens, one of those arrested today in Detroit, who posted \$500 bond for Rozinek at the time of his deportation, Hoover said.

As the key figure in the case, Miss Buchanan-Dineen was sent to this country charged with directing an espionage ring for the location of munition and airplane factories, military camps and naval bases, the FBI said. She was also instructed to obtain all available information concerning helium, the gas used in dirigibles, and the composition and sailing dates of convoys, it was added.

Paid \$500 a Month

"A representative of the German espionage service," Hoover said, "had agreed that she was to receive \$500 a month, and prior to her departure from Lisbon, a German naval attache gave her an advance of \$2,500 with the promise that she would receive additional funds in Detroit."

"Sari de Hajek while tutoring Grace Buchanan-Dineen in making contacts in the United States prepared a checkered green-and-black notebook alphabetically indexed and setting forth the names, addresses, and, in most instances,

telephone numbers of persons known by her in the United States.

"Sari pointed out that the names listed would give Buchanan-Dineen an entry into circles where she might obtain information of interest to the German espionage service and that, in addition, the influential persons listed could assist her in carrying out her pretext as an espionage agent. Beside each name in the notebook Sari de Hajek indicated how each was to be greeted by Miss Buchanan-Dineen, adding a few notes about them and their availability for assistance."

"Miss Buchanan-Dineen was given the names of some 200

prominent people residing in Atlantic City, N. J.; Austin and Bay City, Tex.; Baltimore; Boston; Beloit, Wis.; Cleveland; Chicago; Ojai, Calif.; Berkeley, Calif.; Detroit; Dayton, Ohio; Denver, Fla.; Flushing, L. I.; Greenwich, Conn.; Kingston, N. Y.; Kansas City, Mo.; Louisville, Ky.; Meadville, Pa.; New York city; Passaic, N. J.; Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pa.; Richmond, Ind.; Springfield, Mo.; San Francisco; Schenectady, N. Y.; Toledo, Ohio, and Washington, D. C."

Miss Buchanan-Dineen first contacted Mrs. Behrens on her arrival, and later held conferences with Dr. Otto Willumeit, former Chicago German-American Bund leader, who, according to Hoover, "expressed his willingness to gather espionage information for the enemy."

Hoover described one of the alien women as wife of an "early Nazi party member who was one of the organizers of the Nazi party unit in Detroit." He said one of her daughters worked in Berlin at a desk adjoining that of one of the eight Nazi saboteurs who were landed in this country by submarine last year.

Another of her daughters is married to Walter Hentschel, described as a high ranking Nazi party member in Berlin.

Hoover said the countess, the other alien, was born in Berlin on November 7, 1897, and was an active Nazi associate in her native land.

Contact for Bund

Dr. Thomas, born in Fresno, O., of German ancestry, was described as "an important contact of members of the German-American Bund," and during 1938 and 1939 was said to have followed a prominent Detroit religious leader, a rabbi, around to various meetings making speeches on national Socialism to audiences immediately after the rabbi had finished speaking against German activities.